

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9-14, 17-22, 24 and 26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 9, 11-14, 17, 19-22, 24 and 26 are amended and claims 7-8, 15-16, 23 and 25 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Further the specification is amended.

Applicants appreciate and thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-22, 24 and 26 are allowed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

I. Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification. The specification is amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 7, 15, 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Mao (U.S. Patent No. 6,134,090). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7, 15, 23 and 25 are canceled, and thus the rejection with respect to these claims are now moot. Independent claims 1, 9, 14, 17, 22, 24 and 26 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-6, 10-13 and 18-21 depend on the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Yong S. Choi
Registration No. 43,324

JAO:YSC/tls

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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